

RELEASE CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER REGIS IGLESIAS RAMIREZ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the two-year anniversary of the brutal crackdown on political opposition by the Cuban regime. In partial commemoration of this ignoble milestone, my dear friend and colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and I have launched an "adopt a political prisoner" initiative to help focus the spotlight of international attention on those suffering in Cuban jails because of their inextinguishable faith in the power of democratic liberty.

I rise today to inform my colleagues that I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Cuban political prisoner Regis Iglesias Ramirez.

Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken advocate of human rights in Cuba, Mr. Iglesias is a member of the Coordinating Board for the Christian Liberation Movement. He is also a principal organizer of the Varela Project, a grassroots, civic movement that petitions the Cuban government to allow its citizens to exercise their fundamental human rights. To date, this project has collected and presented over 25,000 signatures to the proper Cuban authorities. Because of his admirable efforts and political activism, Mr. Iglesias was arrested on March 20, 2003, during a wave of repression which was directed against the peaceful Cuban opposition. After weeks of interrogations and psychological torture, he was sentenced to 18 years in prison for the alleged crime of "acts against the independence or territorial integrity of the state"—a common charge that dictatorial states have levied against democracy and human rights advocates for far too long.

Mr. Iglesias was born in Havana on September 18, 1969. He loves to read classical literature and admires leaders of peaceful yet forceful advocacy such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. He is an educated, hard-working man who lives with passion—a passion to live in a democracy where basic civil and political liberties are respected. It is because of his uncompromising commitment to fight for these democratic freedoms that Castro's regime stripped him of his liberty.

Mr. Speaker, the abuses against Regis Iglesias Ramirez are horrendous. He has been repeatedly imprisoned for promoting the very ideals that we hold self-evident, and for calling out to his neighbors and fellow citizens to join him in a cry for freedom from a cruel, totalitarian regime. As Members of Congress, we must take the lead to ensure that these atrocities are stopped. I call upon the Cuban government to release Mr. Iglesias and to end human rights abuse. Let freedom's influence be felt not only in the halls of Capitol Hill, but also in the prison cells of Havana.

FREEDOM FOR ANTUNEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about Jorge Luis Garcia

Perez, often known Antunez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

My distinguished friend and colleague, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, had a great idea for Members of Congress to "adopt" a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. Today, I "adopt" an extraordinary leader of unlimited courage, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (Antunez).

Antunez has been locked in the totalitarian gulag since 1990. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison for "oral enemy propaganda." In May 1993, he was tried in a second sham trial, and sentenced to an additional 15 years to be served from that moment. In total, Antunez has been sentenced to 18 years in Castro's grotesque, inhuman gulag.

Despite being enslaved in the tyrant's gulag, Antunez has bravely carried out nonviolent activism in Cuban jails, writing reports on prison conditions and carrying out numerous protests and hunger strikes to demand more humane treatment for prisoners. He has never wavered in his commitment to human rights and democracy for the Cuban people. Antunez has never given in to the beatings, the punishment cells and the instruments of torture inflicted on him by the Castro regime. Antunez always rises up and calls out, demanding human rights and freedom for the people and the nation of Cuba.

After 15 years in the gulag, Antunez is still feared and relentlessly attacked by the dictatorship. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004, "on July 6, family members of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, reported being beaten along with Garcia during a prison visit. Authorities handcuffed and beat Garcia and later punched his sister and kicked his girlfriend's 9 year old son after the visitors protested the harsh treatment."

No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences to him and his family, Antunez will not waiver in his conviction that Cuba should be and will be free. He is a symbol of dignity and heroic resistance to tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous man has been in Castro's gulag since 1990, for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. My Colleagues, Antunez is the face of the real Cuba. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU ZOGLIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor a distinguished American and community leader, Mary Lou Zoglin who passed away last week.

Mary Lou Zoglin was committed to serving her community whether it was with non-profits or through community service. She was the executive director of Healthy Ventures, a consortium of schools and other agencies dedicated to the well-being of children. She later served on the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Foothill-De Anza Community College Board. In the early 1990s,

Mary Lou turned her public service to the City of Mountain View where she joined the city's Planning Commission. In 1996, she was elected to the Mountain View city Council where she served for 8 years, and one term as Mayor.

During her tenure with the City Council, Mary Lou Zoglin focused her public service on ensuring that the community has a continuum of human services from the time children are in preschool to high school and then into adulthood. She worked tirelessly to see that all members of the community are served by the city, not just those who are the most vocal or economically advantaged. She was instrumental in the construction of San Antonio Place, an affordable housing project in Mountain View which broke ground last year. She also fought for the creation of child-care centers, for improvements to city parks and for resources for youth, including after school programs.

Beyond her dedication to public service, Mrs. Zoglin was committed to her family and an avid student of foreign languages and cultures. She earned her college degree from Radcliffe College where she studied Romance languages and later won a Fulbright scholarship to study in Brussels, Belgium. Upon her return, she met her husband in the early 1950s while they were both in New York. They moved to Los Altos in 1956 where they began their family. Her children, John, Katie and Bill, were raised in this close-knit community and she recently became a proud grandmother of twin grandchildren.

Despite her 5-year battle with cancer and her small frame, Mary Lou Zoglin was frequently described as a "powerhouse" and a "dynamo." She found true joy in working with people in the community and making their dreams a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this good and great woman for her lifetime of remarkable achievements and in extending to her family our deepest sympathy. Our community and our country have lost a true friend and an extraordinary leader.

CPL. CHARLES W. LINDBERG AND
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IWO
JIMA

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and pay tribute to a fellow Minnesotan and true America hero, Cpl. Charles W. Lindberg. In a manner that is so characteristic of our veterans, Cpl. Lindberg put his life in harm's way so that future generations may live in a world free of the oppressive forces of tyranny. On the morning of the fifth day of this historic battle, six courageous young Marines—Jim Michels, Hank Hansen, Louis Charlo, Boots Thomas, Harold Schrier, and Charles Lindberg—were able to climb atop the slopes of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, in the thick of intense enemy fire and destroy a Japanese outpost, marking the first plot of native Japanese soil captured by the Americans during World War II. It was here that these five brave soldiers planted the first